



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

17 ILLEGAL ALIENS ARRESTED AT SHELL CHEMICAL REFINERY IN ALABAMA

MOBILE, Ala.— U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents arrested 17 aliens at the Shell chemical refinery in the Port of Mobile Foreign Trade Zone today as part of an ongoing investigation of petroleum industry subcontractors.

The refinery has been designated a critical infrastructure facility of the United States because of its location and products, and it warrants direct protection by the Department of Homeland Security.

ICE special agents received information indicating that a subcontractor was supplying illegal aliens as laborers for the facility. Document analysis and national database checks indicated that some of the supplied laborers possessed fraudulent Resident Alien identification cards (so-called "green cards"), fraudulent Social Security cards, or both.

Possible federal violations by those arrested include use of fraudulent documents, misuse of Social Security cards, re-entry after deportation, and false claims of U.S. citizenship.

At least one of the aliens working there was previously deported by ICE as an aggravated felon. Another alien is named under an outstanding arrest warrant for possession/intent to manufacture narcotics.

This joint enforcement operation was the result of many agencies working together, including the Department of Homeland Security's ICE, Customs and Border Protection- Border Patrol and U.S. Coast Guard, as well as the FBI and the Mobile Police Department.

"Protecting the integrity of the petroleum industry in this region is a crucial part of ICE's continuing enforcement strategy," said ICE New Orleans Special Agent-in-Charge Michael Holt. "When an individual uses fraudulent documents, it's for the purpose of hiding their true identity and history. As the 9/11 Commission pointed out, the United States cannot risk having 'unknown' people working in or near its critical infrastructure."

David York, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama, will determine the extent and scope of federal prosecution in the case. “Our office will remain vigilant in our efforts to enforce the immigration laws and to protect our borders and the citizens of Alabama,” said York.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.